

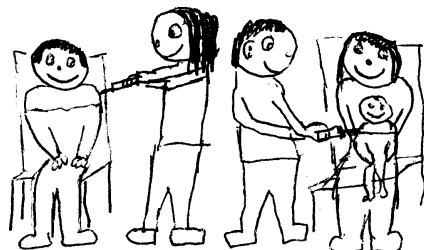
## Why does my baby need so many vaccinations?

It's true that little babies get lots of injections and that many of them can cause temporary discomfort. But without these vaccines your baby is not protected against measles, mumps, diphtheria, rubella, and other preventable diseases. Like hepatitis B, many of these diseases can result in severe illness, hospitalization, and even death.

Make sure all your children get all their vaccinations on time. Children are our future—protect them!

### Everyone needs vaccinations!

If you can't afford a doctor, call your city or county health department.



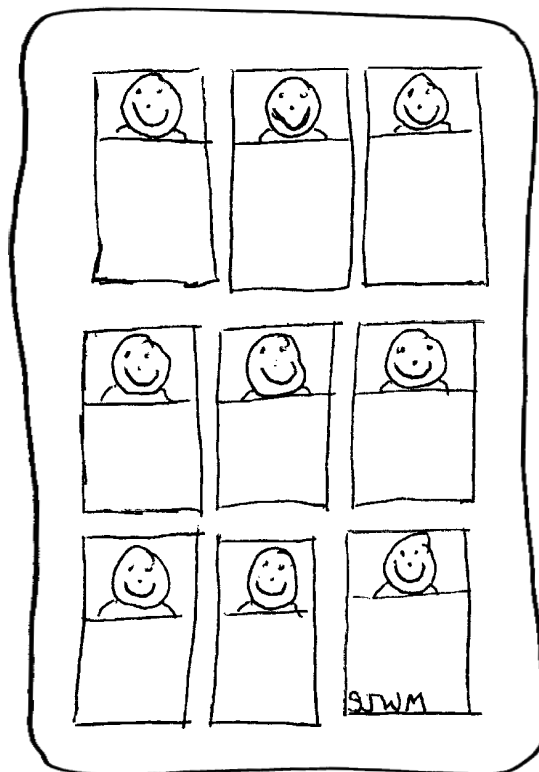
For more information about hepatitis B, contact your doctor, nurse, or local health department, or call CDC's National Immunization Information Hotline at (800) 232-2522, or visit IAC's website at: [www.immunize.org](http://www.immunize.org)

### Immunization Action Coalition

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## Hepatitis B shots are recommended for all new babies



## Hepatitis B vaccine helps protect your baby's future!



## Who says my baby needs hepatitis B vaccination?

The American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Family Physicians, and the U.S. Public Health Service Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices all recommend that every baby born in the United States be vaccinated against hepatitis B. These are the same medical groups that recommend your baby get vaccinated against measles, tetanus, polio, and other serious diseases.

## What is hepatitis B?

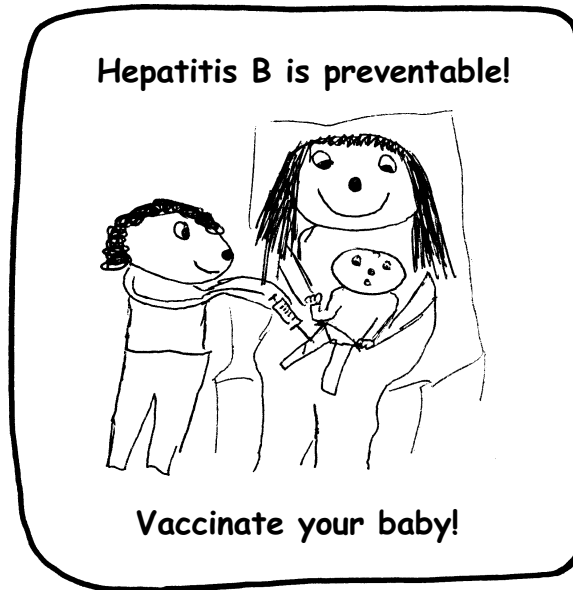
Hepatitis B is a serious liver disease caused by a virus. This virus enters the bloodstream and attacks the liver. When infants and young children are infected, the virus often remains in the body for decades and causes ongoing liver damage, including liver failure and liver cancer. Fortunately, a vaccine can prevent this very serious disease. In fact, hepatitis B vaccine is the first anti-cancer vaccine.

## How is hepatitis B virus spread?

Hepatitis B virus is spread by contact with the blood or other body fluids of an infected person. An infected mother can transmit this disease to her baby at the time of birth; children can acquire hepatitis B on playgrounds or in contact sports; adults transmit hepatitis B virus through sexual activity; health care workers are at risk for hepatitis B when they are exposed to blood. The fact is, anyone can become infected with the virus.

## Why does my baby need hepatitis B shots now?

Hepatitis B vaccine is an investment in your baby's future. This vaccine protects babies from a disease that they may come in contact with at any time in life. Protection from the vaccine has been demonstrated to last at least 15 years.



## How many people get hepatitis B?

Approximately 80,000 new cases arise each year in the United States, and more than one million people carry the virus in their blood. Even worse, approximately 5,000 Americans die from hepatitis B-related liver failure or liver cancer every year.

## How many injections are needed to protect my baby?

Three. The first dose is usually given at birth before your baby leaves the hospital. The second dose is given one to two months later, and the third, usually at six months of age. There is flexibility in the dosing schedule. If you have questions, ask your baby's doctor.

## What about my older children?

Although infant vaccination affords the earliest protection, three doses of hepatitis B vaccination are recommended for all children and teens 0–18 years of age. Make sure your older children are protected as they enter the higher-risk years. Ask your doctor to vaccinate your older children now if they haven't had this important vaccine already.

## Is this vaccine safe?

Hepatitis B vaccine has been shown to be very safe when given to infants, children, and adults. More than 20 million people have received hepatitis B vaccine in the United States and more than 500 million people have received it worldwide. The most common side effects from hepatitis B vaccination are pain at the injection site and mild to moderate fever. No deaths from hepatitis B vaccine have been reported. Many deaths have been prevented.